

The Wilderness Campaign

CHAPTER XIX.

The Battle Opens.

A clattering skirmish fire had gone on all the time that the lines were forming, and Stuart had brought up his artillery, which was being repelled by the splendid horse batteries belonging to the corps. These were constituted a brigade under Capt. M. Robertson, and consisted of the 6th N. Y. Battery, B. L. D. and M. 2d U. S. and A. C. E. 4th U. S. It was long past noon before the lines were formed on either side to the satisfaction of the commanders. Devins and the Reserve Brigade were first engaged, with the enemy strongly posted on a bluff in the rear of the 4th U. S. which concealed Breasted's Battery. This battery was one of the finest in the Confederate army, and was making unusually good practice upon our lines. The Confeder-

ates in his side. The field was the scene of the wildest excitement and disorder, and Stuart, in despair at the failure of his men to withstand the charge of the Union troops, was seen galloping about, shouting and waving his saber in the vain attempt to rally his men. Federals and Confederates were darting in every direction, and as one of the former was riding past Stuart in this melee he shot him thru the body. Gen. Custer believed that Gen. J. E. B. Stuart was killed in front of them by Private John A. Huff, Co. E. 5th Mich. Cav., who was afterwards killed at Haw's Shop. The bullet entered his side, and passing thru the stomach, inflicted a mortal wound, grazing a small Bible which his mother had given him in his passage. The brave leader was tenderly lifted from his horse, placed in an ambulance and hurried off toward Mechanicsville. His wound was examined, found to be mortal, and as it was desired to make his end as comfortable

Stuart began to sink gradually from the moment of his arrival in Richmond, but he lingered for several hours, conscious to the last. He requested that several hymns of which he was specially fond should be sung for him, and his lips were frequently seen to move in prayer. As he felt his last moments approaching he gave directions for the disposal of some small objects, such as the small Confederate flag which decorated his horse's head in battle, his spurs and a few other things. He expressed himself as resigned to God's will, and his end was peaceful. He was buried in Hollywood Cemetery, in Richmond, beside the little daughter whom he loved so tenderly, and a monument has been erected there in his honor. Of all the leaders that the South had during the civil war none is felt to-day to have been more truly devoted and zealous than Stuart.

Richmond in His Grasp.

Sheridan was one of those Generals who fought his battles to a finish and reaped his field gloriously. As Custer's charge pierced Stuart's left there was an advance everywhere along the miles of battle line, and even where the excellent Union troops swept their enemies before them. With Stuart killed and many others severely wounded, the Confederate horsemen for the first time seemed to completely lose their heart. The most of them were driven in total rout toward Ashland, while a smaller part retreated in equal disorder into Richmond.

Leaving his division commanders to glean the field, Sheridan went on with a small party in pursuit of the enemy. When the naval appropriation bill comes up annually for consideration at the north end of the Capitol, Senator Hale usually has some new idea to bring forward about armaments and the expenses of an enormous military establishment. This year the Maine Senator improved the occasion to emphasize the growing sentiment for arbitration of differences between Nations. While Senator Perkins, of California, the Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, was nominally in charge of the bill, Senator Hale, as the leading authority on naval affairs in the Senate, led off in the discussion and set the pace for the procedure.

There was some surprise in the Senate when Mr. Hale came forward with a request that a portion of the address of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt be read. "I think," said Senator Hale, "the experience of that very great man has enlarged his vision. Some of us did not always agree with him, but there never was a man in his time whose resources were not such that he could not bring the best of argument for his side of the case. Now, I welcome the enlarged vision, the humanitarian idea, the anti-military idea that is conveyed by the speech which the ex-President made in Norway." And after Senator Hale had quoted from Mr. Roosevelt's address, an agreement to limit the size of ships of war and of an agreement which would "go much further," Senator Hale argued there was "no contention that can so safely, so wisely, so beneficently, not only to us, but to the whole world, take this high attitude which is recommended to us by ex-President Roosevelt, there is no country that can so well afford to take this high ground as the United States of America."

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

A Peace Symposium in the Senate Over the Naval Appropriation Bill—A Strong Navy to be Relied On Rather than Fortifications—Troubles With Bureau Chiefs.

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A Peace Symposium.

And following the Senator's cue there was quite a symposium of peace sentiment. Senator Hale, who has long been an opponent of excessive military expenditures, joined in with a forceful argument, and before the consideration of the bill was concluded the strength of sentiment for arbitration of differences was much emphasized. When it is recalled that not many years ago speeches of that character were not only not welcome, but were considered a disgraceful thing, it is a sign of the progress that is making along the lines where Senator Hale was a pioneer advocate.

Some contributions to the problem of coast fortifications have been made during the session of Congress, although there is by no means entirely solved. It is disheartening to those who feel the need of a strong navy, that the statement talk about ships of war costing \$1,000,000 or \$1,800,000 apiece, only to be thrown upon the junk heap after a few years, when it has cost the Government as much as the cost of a battleship. But on top of this evidence of waste of millions comes the expense of coast fortifications. They are expensive, and the Navy, but the equipment wears out in the course of a few years, and experience has shown that the guns and armor of a battleship are obsolete for the following generation.

Fortifying the Philippines.

The debates of the Senate during the past week have brought out clearly that expensive fortifications in the Philippine Islands are no longer favored by those in authority. Senator Hale, who held tenaciously for a great many years, said Senator Newlands, of Nevada, one of those who participated in the debate, "I recall that within a short time after the acquisition of those islands, in a conversation with a disinterested observer, the German staff, he stated that any great European military power taking possession of those islands would not think of making expensive fortifications in the way of fortifications, but would rely mainly upon its fleet. The policy which has now been determined upon will diminish the expense, the risk and the exposure of the United States in that far-distant country."

Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, first emphasizing the decision not to fortify in the Philippines, said Senator Lodge said he acquiesced in it as "a wise abandonment." The Government has already spent in the Philippines more than \$8,000,000 for the fortifications of the Philippines, and if the plans of Army officers had been followed the Government would have expended there for fortifications. The so-called "abandonment," however, does not mean that the expenditure of money for fortifying Manila is to cease altogether. Enormous defensive works and the best of high-power modern guns have already been put there. Only a few days ago an estimate of \$350,000 for the further fortification of the Philippines was forwarded to the House, and a good portion of it, if not all, it will probably be voted at this session.

The "abandonment" applies more strictly to the construction of naval defenses and naval bases, and it was decided that for those purposes would cease in the Philippines and the Government would make its great naval base in the Pacific at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The debate in recent days has emphasized that purpose, and Senate and House at this session have already shown their agreement to the expenditure of very large sums there to further the erection of a great naval station at that point. Senator Lodge has just pointed out that Pearl Harbor will be the Gibraltar of the Pacific. "I do not pretend to be a naval expert," said he, "but I am quite certain that no hostile fleet would dare come to the Pacific Coast and leave the American fleet behind it with a base at Hawaii."

With that end in view the Senate finally approved of a House provision appropriating \$1,500,000 for dredging the channel up to Pearl Harbor, instead of \$1,200,000, and also approved of a limit of \$2,700,000 for the con-

struction there of a drydock which will be one of the largest and one of the best drydocks in the world when completed.

Fortifying the Canal.

Very closely related with these matters of fortifications in the Philippines and in the Sandwich Islands is that of fortifying the Panama Canal, over which a contest is raging in Congress. A bill of military men has recommended fortifying the canal at a cost of several millions of dollars. These fortifications, once put in place, will mean an expense of about \$1,000,000 to maintain. Quite a contingent of members in the House, headed by ex-Speaker Ketter, of Ohio, is opposed to voting this money for canal fortifications, favoring instead the neutralization of the canal in time of war thru the framing of treaties with foreign Nations. Such a treaty now is in force with Great Britain, and it is claimed that other treaties with the powers of the earth could easily be negotiated.

The advocates of militarism are pushing their case aggressively, but if the voting of the appropriation can be prevented at this session of Congress the prospects will be good for keeping the canal open to all ships of war and avoiding the expense of fortifications. Were this country to gain any decided advantage by fortifying the canal there is little question what Congress would do, but experts say it will be exceedingly difficult to defend the canal in time of war and that its neutralization would probably prove an advantage to the United States.

The Secretary of the Navy promises to be rid of some of his troubles in administration when the naval appropriation bill is finally enacted into law. He has been conducting a most energetic campaign to foster a public sentiment in favor of his plans, and it remains to be seen how the Congress will respond. The Senate committee put upon the naval bill a provision allowing him to distribute the duties of the Bureau of Equipment in other words, that means the elimination of the Bureau of Equipment, as the Secretary requested last December. Perhaps the House will not assent to this, but the Secretary's friends believe it will.

The Case of Admiral Rogers.

The opponents of the Secretary's reorganization plan have apparently been checked by the virtual removal of Paymaster-General E. B. Rogers. He will soon cease to be head of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, and the Secretary will have an officer there who is better in accord with his own views of administration. But Admiral Rogers' friends are indignant enough to dictate the terms by which he is to be replaced. They virtually kick him upstairs, and enable him to retire from the active Naval Service with a pension for life equal to his present pay on the active list. At least that will be the effect if the proposition which the Senate has enacted becomes law.

For at present Admiral Rogers has the relative rank of a Captain in the Navy. But as the head of a Bureau he has the relative rank of an Admiral of the lower class, corresponding with a Brigadier-General in the Army. His present pay is \$5,500 a year, not counting allowances, which makes it \$13,900 or more a year additional. It is proposed, however, to retire any Bureau Chief with the rank next higher than that which he actually has on the active list, but in terms which would mean a Rear-Admiral of the first rank, corresponding with that of a Major-General in the Army. The pay of that rank is \$7,500 a year, and the pay of that rank on the retired list would be 75 per cent of that sum, or \$5,625.

Another Bureau Chief.

Perhaps the House will interfere with these fine plans, because if Admiral Rogers is to be disposed of in this fashion it is believed to make a question of time when Admiral Capps, head of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, who is another lion in the pathway of the reorganization plan, will go the same way. He, too, is a Bureau Chief with the relative rank of a Rear-Admiral of the second class, and under the proposed scheme will retire on a higher salary than he is now drawing.

It is probably indispensible that these opponents of the Secretary's plans to reorganize the Navy should be removed from the service. The discipline of the service seems to demand it, although both men are undoubtedly very capable and efficient officers. They have become identified with a losing faction of the Navy. The Government and to the service of these factional quarrels is great. The Navy, however, has its own methods of dealing with such matters, and it is not for Congress to interfere. The Navy has its own methods of dealing with such matters, and it is not for Congress to interfere. The Navy has its own methods of dealing with such matters, and it is not for Congress to interfere.



Memorial Day.

THE RAILROAD BILL.

The Insurgents Making a Vigorous Holdup—The Bill Only a Shadow of its Former Self.

A week is almost an era nowadays to the President and Congress. The present week is one during which the Republicans find themselves in a very tight corner, and it is not clear whether they will adjourn, because no one can tell when the present deadlock will break or how it will break. If the President would give the word to place his legislative program on the sidetrack for this session, there would be a great hustling and busting, and in a couple of weeks the legislative deck would be cleared and Congress would be out of Washington. To date there are no signs of that sort of a development, for the President is hanging on to the grim death, and refuses to be discouraged at the hostile operations of the little band of determined insurgents.

FERVID SIDE CONTESTS.

Strong Demand for and Strong Protests Against a Public Health Department—The Cabinet Unwieldy Now.

Congress is having some exceedingly fervid side contests in the closing weeks of an unusual session. These contests have been during up from time to time, quite unexpectedly and focusing attention for a little from the big events which have steadily held the boards for the winter.

Only a few days ago there was a sudden commotion around the Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine. A lot of folks have never heard of that committee, although it is listed in the roster of Senate committees and has a committee room. However, it is a committee—one of three or four in the Senate—which has a Democratic Chairman. It is exceedingly exceptional for a committee Chairman from the minority party in the Senate to have any business to do.

But Senator Thomas S. Martin, Democrat of Virginia and Chairman of the Public Health Committee, found his room crowded with business and plenty of it for a season, when hearings were on affecting a bill by Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, to create a Department of Public Health. It was generally supposed that the work of creating sentiment for a Public Health Department has been growing apace. President Taft declared for it months ago, and every while there has been some demonstration or some visit of a committee to the White House regarding a Public Health Department, which has given President Taft a new wave of building public sentiment therefor.

Nevertheless, around the Capitol it has become apparent all of a sudden that there is a strong opposition in abundance. These opponents, who are understood to be the proprietors of patent medicines and believe in diverse methods of treatment, are to mention a great and influential body of people who for quite a time have been furthering an agitation against what they are pleased to term "doctors' trust," made just about the loudest protest that has been heard in Washington for a long time against any matter of legislation. In the first place, as the day for the hearings upon the Public Health Department bill approached they loaded the wires with messages of protest.

It is nothing strange for telegrams of protest against this and that to come in a flood upon Washington, but the protests against the Public Health Department have been more numerous and more powerful. Extra forces of operators were engaged night and day for about a week, and the wires were flooded with telegrams literally came by the tens of thousands. Extra forces of operators were engaged night and day for about a week, and the wires were flooded with telegrams literally came by the tens of thousands. Extra forces of operators were engaged night and day for about a week, and the wires were flooded with telegrams literally came by the tens of thousands.

The Cabinet Large Enough.

It is worth noting in that connection that the establishment of a new Executive Department is by no means an easy undertaking these modern days. A feeling prevails that the President's Cabinet is as large as it ought to be and that his plans are altogether too many. It is now consists of nine members, two of whom have been authorized in the last 20 years. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce and



THE FIGHT AT YELLOW TAVERN.

ates in front of Custer were dismounted, and firing from shelter with entirely too good aim. Alger ordered Col. Alger, of the 5th Mich. Cav., and Maj. Kidd, of the 6th, to dismount their men and charge the enemy. This was done in the customary vigorous style of the Michigan men, who gained a position where they could deliver an effective fire upon the Confederate ranks. The dash of Custer rode forward with his men in this movement, and his quick eye took in all the possibilities of a successful rush by his mounted men. He dashed forward at the head of his line, and he galloped off to form the 1st Mich. Cav. in column of squadrons under the cover of the woods. He next sent orders to Alger and Kidd to move forward and occupy the attention of the enemy, while Heaton's Battery opened up a fierce fire. His arrangements perfected, his brigade bunched, he sounded the advance, and Custer, with his long, fair hair flying in the air, his bright saber flashing in the afternoon sun, dashed forward at the head of his veterans of the 1st Mich. Cav. directly upon the flank of the artillery.

Sheridan was aware of what Custer was preparing for, and rode around to take in a sight that filled his soldier's heart with joy. As soon as the 1st Mich. Cav. emerged from the woods, the Confederate battery turned its attention to it, and tried to overwhelm it with a storm of canister and shell. It was indeed a desperate chance that Custer and the regiment were taking. Between them and the battery to be reached were five fences and a bridge, over which not more than three men could pass at a time. With hearts full to bursting with the supreme excitement of the moment, the Michigan boys raised a terrible yell, and followed Lieut-Col. Stange in a swift rush that passed all obstacles as if they were trifles. The charge was simply irresistible, and the artillerymen followed their cavalry supporters in precipitate flight. The first to reach the battery was Major Howlgren, who was wounded in the arm as he came up to the battery. The 5th and 6th Mich. Cav. advanced in their turn, and the enemy was driven back across a ravine about a quarter of a mile, where he rallied and succeeded in temporarily stopping the 1st Mich., which had become disordered by the very success of the charge. Then Custer quickly flung in his reserve. The 7th Mich. Cav., commanded by Maj. Granger, came forward on a trot, with their sabers drawn, and charged to the very muzzles of the enemy's guns. Maj. Granger falling with a bullet thru his heart in advance of his men. The resistance of the enemy was stubborn, but Custer flung in all of his men gallantly, brought up Heaton's Battery, and the 1st Vt. Cav. under Gen. Lomax, and the right, under Fitzhugh Lee, had given way under the Federal attack, he ordered Maj. Breasted to take command of all the mounted men in the road, and hold it at any cost against whatever might come. Breasted, who never seemed to be so much in his natural element as when engaged in fierce and hopeless fighting, called to his men to follow, and immediately charged the Federal column. He was at once surrounded, and in the deadly saber fight that followed was nearly cut from his saddle and received a pistol

and peaceful as possible he was at once taken to Richmond and to the home of a friend, where he received every attention that the grief-stricken city could give him. Col. Esten Cooke gives this description of the way the sad news was received in the Confederate Capital: "The intelligence that the great commander of Lee's cavalry was mortally wounded soon spread thru the city, and produced the profoundest grief. The effect resembled that produced by the telegram just one year before: 'Stone-wall' Jackson is wounded! 'Jackson is dead.' Since the death of the great infantry commander no soldier but Lee had filled a greater space in the public eye, or was more beloved than Stuart. The charges of frivolity and a love of ostentation brought against him in the early part of the war had long been silenced. His real character had become



"THE RAIN IT RAINETH."

thoroughly known, and the fact was universally recognized that the Southern cause had no more ardent and devoted defender. The phrase 'Lee, Jackson and Stuart' had become 'Lee and Stuart,' and now, when this last was dying from wounds received in defense of the Capital, the people of Richmond were affected as they had never been affected by any event since the death of Jackson.

"The wounded General had not the happiness of seeing his wife and son before his death, and this was a subject of deep distress to him. Mrs. Stuart was a daughter of Gen. Philip St. George Cooke, of the United States Army, and there never was a happier union than that of the two families. The affection and a most devoted husband, and his love for his children was especially tender. His little daughter, a child with blue eyes and light curls, had died in 1862, while he was fighting east of the Blue Ridge after Sharpsburg, and he was nearly unmanly by it. I remember his alluding to it one day and saying, as he turned away to hide the tears in his eyes: 'I shall never get over it.' Now, on his deathbed, he had not the consolation of seeing those near and dear who were left to him."

(Continued on page three.)